

To the Members of the California Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2637 without my signature.

This bill would require the California State University (CSU) to unnecessarily incur costs to hire independent investigators to examine all employee complaints of reprisal, retaliation, threats or coercion.

The California State University (CSU) employees are currently protected from retaliation for disclosing improper activities under the California Whistleblower Protection Act. Furthermore, in 2002 the CSU Chancellor issued Executive Order 882, establishing procedures for responding to complaints filed by CSU employees or applicants. The complaint review process includes an investigation and an opportunity for the complainant to present evidence and witnesses in support of the complaint.

The existing statutory and CSU Executive Order frameworks provide adequate protection for those that believe that they have been retaliated against for having reported improper activities. It is unclear how requiring CSU to employ an external investigator will provide a better process.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger